

John Pappas (1920 – 1944)

John Pappas had listed his home state as California. His brother, Andres Pappas runs the Sunkist Café in Chula Vista. John Pappas was a graduate of the Chula Vista elementary school, Chula Vista Junior High, and the Sweetwater Union High School. He was 24 and married. He was a past President of the DeMolay chapter and was a director of the Greek Orthodox Church.

He was a Private in the United States Army (E2). He had been in the tank corps for nine months. His service number was 39711821.

He died on July 5, 1944 during the Rome-Arno Campaign (22 January – 9 September 1944) in the European Theater and he is buried in the Florence American Cemetery in Florence, Italy. He was assigned to the 6th Regiment, 9th Armored Division. His headstone is located at Plot E, Row 13, Grave # 16.

The following history is taken from the Center for Military History for the period of July 1943 in Italy:

In spite of the handicaps posed by growing shortages and obstacles presented by the enemy, the Fifth and Eighth Armies continued to advance. Cecina fell to the 34th captured Siena on 3 July, and Volterra fell on 8 July to the 1st Armored Division. The newly arrived U.S. 91st Infantry Division, under Maj. Gen. William G. Livesay, entered action for the first time on 12 July and helped the 34th and 88th Infantry Divisions and the U.S. Japanese-American 442d Regimental Combat Team capture the port of Leghorn on 19 July before reaching the banks of the Arno with the rest of the Fifth Army on 23 July. On the Eighth Army front, the Polish Corps captured the vital port of Ancona on 18 July, while the British 13 Corps began its advance on Florence, taking that city on 5 August.

Private Pappas was awarded the Purple Heart. A map depicting the advance of American Troops during the Rome-Arno (Italy) campaign is shown:

